



USAID
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

PROGRAM E-SPOTLIGHT

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UKRAINE

Millennium Challenge Corporation Team Meets Ukrainian Officials

In cooperation with the U.S. Embassy, the USAID Regional Mission for Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova organized and coordinated a visit by a Millennium Challenge Corporation team to Kiev from February 27 to March 1 in support of the Government's development of a MCA Threshold Program plan that will focus on fighting corruption.



G. Kevin Saba Presents Eligibility Criteria for the Threshold Program at the Press Conference on March 1

The MCC delegation, headed by G. Kevin Saba, MCC Threshold Managing Director, met with the Ministers of Justice, Construction and Architecture, and Transportation. The team also held discussions with the head of the State Security Service and the deputy chairman of the National Security and Defense Council as well as with the deputy head of Presidential Secretariat and members of the country's MCC Working Group. Other meetings included talks with representatives of local NGOs, the mass media and the private sector. The MCC group held a press conference at the conclusion of their stay in Kyiv in which the U.S. Ambassador and the USAID Mission Director participated.

U.S. Ambassador Visits Dnipropetrovsk

U.S. Ambassador to Ukraine John Herbst traveled to Dnipropetrovsk on February 22 to present the children of Boarding School #6 a model electric train he had originally personally constructed for his children. During his one-day trip, he also visited the Women's Information and Support Center a USAID-supported NGO, that has developed a unique domestic violence prevention model for Dnipropetrovsk oblast. Due to its effectiveness, the model has been selected for nationwide roll-out, and is now implemented in Donetsk and Lviv oblasts, and the Autonomous Republic Crimea. Ambassador Herbst also gave an interview to Dnipropetrovsk Channel 34, whose journalists have participated in USAID-supported U-Media project trainings.



John Herbst (right) during interview at Channel 34

One-Stop Shops Make Business Registration Efficient and Transparent

On February 28, USAID's BIZPRO business development program opened its 40th One-Stop Shop in Ukraine and the first in Kiev. USAID Regional Mission Director Earl Gast along with the head of Kiev's Solomyanskyi District Ivan Sydorov and Kiev City Council Member Mykola Georgievskii took part in the ribbon-cutting

ceremony that officially opened the site. USAID has been developing One-Stop Shops throughout Ukraine as part of its regulatory reform effort. One-Stop Shops reduce the time and the costs for obtaining permits while increasing the transparency of the process, which in turn makes the business environment more conducive to growth and less so to corruption. The 40 Ukrainian municipalities that USAID has helped to establish permit one-stop shops are seeing remarkable results. A prime example is in the city of Kupiansk, in Kharkiv Oblast. Since the One-Stop Shop was opened, the city has seen a two-fold decrease in the cost of compliance; a four-fold decrease in the time to obtain permits; and a decrease in the use of unofficial payments from 50% to 6%.



Earl Gast (right) opened the 40th One-Stop Shop in Ukraine

USAID Mother and Infant Health Project Partners with TNK-BP Ukraine

Luhansk Oblast Governor Hennadii Moskal hosted the launch of a Mother and Infant Health Project (MIHP) public-private partnership initiative on February 23 with a presentation and a press conference in his office. Joining him were Karen Hilliard, Deputy Mission Director for the USAID Regional Mission and TNK-BP Ukraine President Alexander Gorodetsky. USAID and TNK-BP have joined forces to roll out the successful MIHP pilot nationwide and TNK-BP Ukraine has pledged \$1.2 million for this program.

First MIHP Project Director Helene Lefevre-Cholay gave a briefing explaining the current challenges and the program's objectives.



Karen Hilliard (left) shares a light moment with Hennadii Moskal (right), Luhansk Oblast Governor

Then Ms. Hilliard told a score of journalists who gathered for the event that the MIHP program had thus far achieved outstanding results in the 16 local maternity hospitals in which it had already been introduced, including a 30 percent reduction in infant mortality, virtual elimination of hypothermia among newborns and reduced instances of child abandonment. Governor Moskal quipped that the results he would like to see would be wealthy Ukrainians using local medical care facilities and not flying their families to Europe to receive medical care.

Planting the Seeds of Community Philanthropy

A Donor Roundtable discussion on "Community Philanthropy Prospects in Ukraine: Tools for Community Philanthropy Development" took place on February 21 at the Center for Community Philanthropy (CCP). The purpose of this roundtable was to share information about tools and training for the development of community philanthropy in Ukraine.

A research summary presented by the "Carpathian Foundation – Ukraine," stated that average citizens who are involved in philanthropy believe that support should be directed first of all to orphans, the sick and disabled people. It presented a poll that showed a low level of awareness about the activities of charitable and non-profit NGOs, with 69.9% of respondents having no idea about the existence of such organizations. The respondents said they would give donations to church, monasteries and orphanages, but very rarely to local NGOs.

The CCP was established by the Ukrainian Citizen Action Network (UCAN) program in the fall

of 2004 with USAID support. Its mission is to stimulate community philanthropy in Ukraine.

The Voter and the Politician Often Do Not Think Alike

Twenty Ukrainian journalists, political scientists and government officials gathered at the National Reform Press Club on February 15 to discuss the results of an opinion poll conducted by the Democratic Initiative Foundation at the request of USAID's Ukraine Reform Education Program (UREP).

The poll's results showed that popular opinion often varies from expert opinion and even the opinions of politicians. Nonetheless, as the press club was told, expert opinion is very important when discussing specific policy questions. "That's why I think this discussion today is very important in order to conduct a proper information campaign; to clarify what is in the interest of the country and to give the experts the possibility to present their arguments on what is in Ukraine's national interests," mentioned Ilko Kucheriv, Democratic Initiative Foundation director.



Ihor Dir, deputy director of the European Union Department of Ministry of Foreign Affairs answers a journalist's question

Results of this poll on public and political opinion will be incorporated into a special issue of UREP's "New Courier" bulletin and published in March 2006.

UREP conducts nationwide public education activities to promote awareness and participation by Ukrainian citizens in economic, social, and democratic reforms. UREP is implemented by a Ukrainian NGO, the Center for Ukrainian Reform Education (CURE). Working with Ukrainian officials and private

sector leaders, NGOs and think tanks, and Ukrainian media, the program strives to assist Ukrainians in understanding reform issues.

Upcoming Events

March 3-6, Prevention of Abandonment of Children Born to HIV+ Mothers Project, Early Intervention Training.

March 14, Access to Credit Initiative, Press Conference on "City of Ivano-Frankivsk Issues its First Municipal Bond" (the first USAID supported Bond Issuance).

March 16-21, BIZPRO, "Made in Ukraine: Trade Mark Defile."

Happy International Women's Day



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